MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 FEBRUARY 1988

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces launched a new offensive on the mountains of northeast Iraq late on 24 February, capturing 25 villages in the Al-Sulaymaniyah region and inflicting "large numbers" of casualties on the enemy, Iran announced in a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

Meanwhile, Iraq's Voice of the Masses radio reported further Iraqi successes against the Iranian forces in Al-Faw, stating that the Iraqis "tightened their siege of the invading forces" during battles on 24 February and that the central Iraqi column recaptured several more kilometers, wiping out "thousands" more Iranians. An Iraqi communique carried by the radio acknowledged the loss of an Iraqi aircraft 24 February, while Tehran radio said the tails of Iraqi warplanes shot down since 9 February had risen to 60.

Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented on Iran's antiaircraft defenses in remarks reported by Tehran radio, contending that Iran's SAM system is capable of downing down "the most sophisticated Russian aircraft." Although France supplied Iraq with sophisticated equipment capable of jamming the radars linked to Iran's SAM's, he said, Iran adopted measures to render this equipment useless and "our older missiles keep shooting down planes like leaves." Hashemi-Rafsanjani subsequently told the Majlis that the UN Security Council resolution on the Iran-Iraq war is "ineffective and shallow," according to IRNA, which also cited President 'Ali Khamene'i's statement that the resolution is unacceptable because of its failure to condemn Iraq.

Iranian OPEC Proposals

Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan has said the Kingdom is reviewing Iran's recommendations concerning the suspension of OPEC oil exports and will make an appropriate decision, Iranian Foreign Ministry Political Under Secretary Hossein Sheykh ol-Eslami stated in remarks reported by Tehran radio following his meeting with Prince Sultan in Riyadh. In a related development, the Iranian oil minister discussed the oil market situation during talks with UAE officials in Abu Dhabi, according to Abu Dhabi radio.

Libya

The Lebanese newspaper AL-SHARQ published an interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which the Libyan leader disclosed that Libya recently launched an air strike against an Israeli target but called the attack off at the 11th hour "because we thought it was a limited operation." Libya had wanted to be the target of some kind of Israeli raid, Al-Qadhdhafi stated, because this would have meant war and would have entitled Libya to wage continuous military operations against Israel. He added that Libya does not intend to give up its decision to chase Israeli planes, warning that "we will get them at some point."

On the situation in Chad, Al-Qadhdhafi maintained that Libya was unaware of the GUNT offensive until after it had taken place and this made Libya refrain from giving GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei any assistance. Goukouni launched the offensive "of his own accord" at a time when his relations with Libya were "at an ebb," Al-Qadhdhafi claimed. As for Arab relations, the Libyan leader predicted a declaration of union with Algeria "within the next few months" and he also said Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is expected to visit Libya soon to proclaim "a form of advanced union."

PLO

Palestinian leaders and organizations on the occupied territories continue to "reject and denounce" King Hussein's decision to halt political coordination with the PLO, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. In a related statement carried by the radio, PNC members in Baghdad welcomed PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's rejection of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and denounced "desperate attempts" to split the cohesion between the PLO and the Palestinian people. Meanwhile, a Palestinian source in Amman cited by Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that the PLO leadership is holding consultations with opposition factions like the DFLP prior to formulating an official reply to King Hussein's 19 February speech. In a separate development, SAWT-UL-UR announced that 'Arafat will visit Ankara this week.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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Commerce Minister Ends Visit to Moscow 23 Feb

LD2312215 Kabul *Domestic Service in Dari*
1600 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Commerce Minister Mohammad Khan Jalalar, who led a DRA delegation to the USSR for trade talks, signed a trade agreement for the years 1988-1990. Mohammad Khan Jalalar, who returned home this afternoon, said that during his visit to the USSR he signed documents on further cooperation in trade and amortizing the loan for the consumer goods purchased from the USSR.

Herat Garrison Commander Comments on Operations

LD2311950 Kabul *Domestic Service in Pashto*
1600 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] By inflicting shattering blows on the counterrevolutionary bands, the vigilant security forces of the country are wiping them out of the most remote parts of the country. In this connection, recently the Armed Forces units of Herat Province carried out a series of successful operations against counterrevolutionary bands in that province. A large number of counterrevolutionary bands were crushed and a large number of weapons seized.

The commander of the Herat Province garrison, Colonel Dogarwal Tomotaki, spoke to a Radio Afghanistan reporter and said:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Col Tomotaki, could you introduce yourself to Radio Afghanistan listeners?

[Tomotaki] My name is Col Tomotaki, commander of Division 17 of Herat.

[Reporter] Please tell us about the combat readiness of the troops and officers of Herat division and the recent victories they have achieved.

[Tomotaki] The level of combat readiness of Division 17 of Herat Province since my appointment has been increasing from day to day. Political work, combat training officers, and publicity work among our staff have been proceeding precisely in accordance with the plan of the Ministry of Defense.

This fact does not apply solely to the units and companies of Division 17 of Herat, but all forces who are within the Herat garrison have been mobilized around one command and have been directed and commanded by one [Commander]. The combat readiness of the division, Sarandoy, the armored force, border brigades, and even the groups of revolution defenders who have come from Kabul to Herat -- and all of them under complete discipline -- are directed to combat tasks assigned by us, and crush the enemy on time.

In the course of the first combat activity, which was mounted in the Herat City area and continued for 21 days, hundreds of rebels were captured alive, hundreds of the enemy were arrested, and hundreds of heavy and light weapons were seized by the security forces of Herat Province.

The combat capability of the security forces of the DRA in particular was shown to the enemy of the people during these 4 months. The ringleaders of the enemy, some two or three, whose names are not worth mentioning, immediately after hearing our strongly worded warning, escaped to Iran and have been pursued by us step by step. They have not returned to the northwest zone of our country.

However, the enemies under their command who existed in the area under the Herat Garrison and northwest zone were all eliminated. The direction combat capability of the enemy has been completely disrupted. As a combat commander, I assure you that the combat capability of the enemy in the country's northwest zone has been eliminated forever.

In addition, counterrevolutionary groups in the northwest zone of our country surrender to the security forces from day to day. The spirit of surrender has infiltrated and ruled the enemy. When I was in Herat, for example, 244 people along with 59 weapons surrendered with good conscience. Some 100 other people along with 44 weapons surrendered to the Security Forces in the Pashtun Kot area, some 30 km to the east of Herat airport.

According to another report, as a result of successful operations carried out by the country's security forces in the region of Kohe-Safid, Farah Province, the Ishrifi bases and dreadful hideouts of the criminal band of Gulbuddin were discovered and a number of the rebels were crushed.

Also as a result of these operations, a large number of weapons and ammunition have been seized by security forces including: 3 [DShK]'s with 2,500 boxes of shells, 4 heavy mortars with their 120 launchers' stones, 4 binoculars, 2 launching rockets for the artillery-to-air rocket with 18 rockets made in Egypt, a recoilless gun with 22 warheads made in China, an anti-[word indistinct] vehicle gun with 9 rockets made in Egypt, a rocket launcher with 12 rockets, 20 weapons with 900 rounds of ammunition, 113 artillery stones, 75 telephonemail stones made in America and Italy, 30 kg of explosives, 500 [word indistinct] of mortars and [DShK]'s, a box of cartridges, a box of electrical equipment for launching rockets, 8 attachmentsail gun stocks, 17 rounds of rocket launcher ammunition, a mortar of 1,787 stones with 90 stones, 2 ZK-12 and 120 boxes of [DShK]'s ammunition.

The report adds that of the 6 military operations, two martyrdom reports were taken by the security forces.

Also as a result of the recent operations by the country's Defense Armed Forces, which were carried out in the surroundings of the district of Pushtun Kot, Farah Province, 17 counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and 7 injured. A large number of arms and ammunition was seized by the country's security forces. [End recording]

Successful Operations, Seizure of Munitions Detailed

LD2222057 Kabul *Domestic Service in Pashto*
1500 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] As a result of the successful operations carried out by the country's security forces during the past week in various areas

men of the country crushing blows were inflicted on the counter-revolutionaries and a large number of their various weapons and ammunition were destroyed or taken as booty.

Quoting the country's security forces spokesman BAKHTAR reports that as a result of mopping up operations carried out in the environs of Kushan District, Takhar Province, 17 of the criminals were crushed.

In the course of these operations, 5 of their hideouts, 4 DShK's, 2 ZK-1, 18 Egyptian kalashnikovs, and 2 communication units were destroyed.

As a result of operations carried out by the security forces in the environs of Rostaq District, Takhar Province, 3 rocket launchers, 3 heavy machineguns, 197 shells of artillery, 45 hand grenades, a mine detonator, a telephone, 5 tents, 7 carpets, 2 cartons of various medicines, and foodstuffs weighing 11,200 kg were seized by the country's security forces.

As a result of operations carried out in Sang-e Charak District, Jowzjan Province, a number of the counterrevolutionaries were crushed and 12 of these criminals were arrested, 22 light weapons and 19 cartons and personnel mines were seized from these criminals.

As a result of another operation carried out in Takhar Province, 18 counterrevolutionaries were crushed and 20 were arrested. One mortar, 2 DShK's, 2 ZK-1, 2 rocket launchers, 16 Egyptian kalashnikovs, 214 rounds of mortar ammunition, 135 rounds of rocket launcher ammunition, 75 boxes of ZK-1 ammunition, 42 boxes of DShK ammunition, 16,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, 25 antitank mines, 35 antipersonnel mines, 40 pen mines [as heard], 1 pair of binoculars, 7 cartons of medicine, and a large number of propaganda leaflets were seized by our Armed Forces.

According to another report the security forces of our country in the environs of Arghandi Ulya, attached to Pughman District, seized 23 surface-to-surface missiles, a rocket launcher, 2 kalashnikovs, 24 warheads for surface-to-surface missiles, 2,000 meters of explosive fuse, 10 reels of 1-second fuse [as heard], and 12 boxes of DShK ammunition.

A number of the armed rebels were also crushed in the environs of Musa'i subdistrict, Char Asyab district, and four were arrested. One DShK, a rocket launcher with 14 shells, 18 surface-to-surface missile shells, 11 mortar shells, 20 antitank mines, 21 recoilless gun shells, 4 boxes of kalashnikovs, and a large quantity ammunition were seized by the country's security forces.

According to another report a group of criminals belonging to the Gulbuddin band who were robbing and stealing the property of passengers and travelers on Baghlan-Pirwan highway and while removing a truck load of sugar were attacked by the security forces in Chowgam village, Khenjan District, Baghlan Province. Thirteen of these criminals were crushed and a large number of them were injured.

Thirteen various weapons, two rocket launchers and a heavy machinegun were seized from these thieves.

U.S. 'Adviser' Killed

LD2705115 Kabul BAKHTAR AIP in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Kabul, February 24, BAKHTAR — A group of Herat Afghan counter-revolutionaries including their ringleader Wagil and one of their American advisor were killed in an attack by Afridi rebels in Tora locality in Jaw tribes region. The group was going to penetrate in Mijro Area of Nuristan District of Nangarhar Province, east of the DRA for launching subversive activities.

Reports reaching to BAKHTAR says that the wrath and indignation of the Jaw tribes against the military regime of Pakistan and Afghan bandits are increasing day by day.

The reports added that heavy bombs explosion destroyed two military passages in Ali Masjid area, in Jaw tribes region resulted in vast human and material casualties.

GPA: Mujahidin Operations Against Kabul Troops

GF2356183 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1317 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Islamabad, 23 Feb (SPA) — Afghan mujahidin carried out several operations against the pro-Soviet Afghan forces in Qandahar Province in the period from 7 to 9 February 1986. In these operations, they killed some 50 Afghan troops, destroyed 3 radar stations, 7 tanks, and 5 armored vehicles.

Afghan resistance sources said in Islamabad today that two resistance commanders of the Jamiyat-e Eslami Movement were shot dead and two others were seriously injured yesterday in Shikhan near Peshawar.

Foreign Minister to Meet Pakistani Counterpart

BK2502[1] Delhi Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign ministers of India and Pakistan will meet after May. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, while talking to newsmen in Patna. He said the meeting was scheduled for March but it has been delayed due to the budget session of parliament.

Regarding Sri Lanka, he said there cannot be a military solution to the ethnic problem there.

Pakistan Warned Against 'Interest' in Mauritius

BK2509[2] Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] India has expressed the hope that Pakistan will desist from such actions which may adversely affect the efforts to develop friendly relations. Expressing concern over the tendency of the Pakistan Government to make unwarranted references to and take unhealthy interest in the minority communities in India, the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, said that these references cannot but be regarded as a blatant interference in our internal affairs. He was replying to a calling attention motion on the subject by K.C. Tiwari, Congress-I, and others in the Lok Sabha today.

Finance Minister Supports Need for Price Hike

BK2116[3] Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The finance minister announced in the Lok Sabha today that the government is considering a package of austerity measures to cut down nonplan expenditure. A massive drive will also be launched for energy conservation. Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh was intervening in the debate on the adjournment motion on the recent price increases which was initiated by Mr Madhu Dandavate of the Janata Party.

The finance minister said government was forced to increase prices for giving a greater thrust to development and also because of the balance of payments position. The repayment of the IMF loan is beginning and concessional loans are drying up. It had been found that the bulk of the increase in imports was on account of petroleum products, fertilizers, sugar, and machinery for the petroleum industry. He did not agree with the suggestion that instead of increasing petroleum prices, government should have introduced rationing. He said rationing would have caused more problems and would have to led to black marketing. He pointed out even after the increases kerosene and diesel oil are cheaper in India than in neighboring Pakistan and Bangladesh. There is no doubt that the price increases will be a burden on the people. But he appealed to the opposition not to amplify its effect out of proportion.

Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh said the country's leadership is not afraid of taking challenges. The option before the government was to increase the prices or to slow down the rate of growth. The government came to the conclusion that a weak India will never confront than the price increases.

He referred to the rising subsidies and said they have crossed Rs 4,000 crore rupees a year mark. Subsidies on certain items are necessary but they are becoming so large that we have to choose between subsidies and investment. He disclosed that government is making an exercise on a long term policy for administered prices. He also indicated that the effect of the recent price increases on wholesale prices will be 0.7 percent.

The finance minister recalled that the government, which ruled the country during 1977 to 1980, took certain soft options and this led among other things to a fall in national income and decrease in industrial production and the infrastructure was left in a shambles. The present government will not allow this to happen again.

Earlier, initiating the debate Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, alleged that the present price increase is the result of heavy deficit financing, a badly administered public sector, and growth of black money. This, he said, contributed to inflationary trends in the economy. Some commodities whose prices have been stepped up go into agricultural and industrial production. Mr Dandavate said this will enhance the prices of the finished products.

Several ruling party members said that the economy is in a good shape and the inflation rate is the lowest in a decade. Prices of 18 articles of essential consumption have come down in the past 7 months and prices of many others are steady. Industrial and agricultural production is also going up. Despite all these the price hike became essential to mobilize resources for the seventh plan.

Some of the opposition members contended that the price hike will not result in greater mobilization of resources as the cost of implementation of various projects will also go up. They maintained that the increase in the prices of petroleum products will have a cumulative effect on the prices of all commodities.

The opposition members took exception to the announcement of price increase on the eve of the budget session and said this undermined the authority of parliament. They said it is strange that the government should have increased the domestic price of petroleum products at a time when the price of crude was coming down in the international market.

Janata Wants Issue of Terrorists in Pakistan Raised

BK2506[3] Delhi Domestic Service in English
0200 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has urged the center to take up strongly the question of training and sheltering of terrorists with Pakistan. In a statement issued in New Delhi yesterday, the party secretary, Mr Vijay Kumar Malhotra, said the entry of terrorists into India must be checked effectively. Referring to the situation in Punjab, he said priority should be given to the security of life and property of the people in the state.

Additional People Killed in Punjab Violence

22 Feb

BK/2157 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Feb 98

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were shot dead by gunmen near Dharowal in Gurdaspur District this afternoon.

The chief minister, Mr Sarjit Singh Barnala, today visited the curfew-bound Batala town to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. He held discussions with senior civil and police officials and also met some citizens.

Curfew in the town has been extended till tomorrow afternoon as a precautionary measure. The clash toll on Wednesday's shooting incident in the town has risen to four with the death of another injured person. A senior Congress-I leader, Mr Jagender Pal Pandey, has demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident.

22 Feb

BK/2155 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Feb 98

[Text] In Punjab, a subinspector was killed and four others injured in a shootout with what suspected terrorists near Bagapurana in Faridkot District this afternoon. The police party was on patrol duty when the encounter took place. Meanwhile, tomorrow's proposed march from Amritsar to Chandigarh by an organization has been cancelled. Curfew was relaxed 5 and 1/2 hours in Batala during the day. However, it is being extended till tomorrow noon as a precautionary measure.

Chief Minister Comments

BK/2416 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Feb 98

[Text] The Punjab Government has evolved a new strategy to effectively deal with the terrorist activities in the Districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Ferozepore, and parts of Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur District. This was announced by the chief minister, Mr Sarjit Singh Barnala, while reviewing the law-and-order situation in the state at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh today.

Under the new strategy, these areas have been divided into a number of sectors and each sector has been put under the charge of a commandant of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] assisted by a DSP [Deputy Superintendent of Police] of Punjab police. Under this arrangement, paramilitary forces responsible for maintaining law and order in the sector will man each town and village in the sector twice a day.

Mr Barnala said, for making the strategy more effective, they have been provided with adequate facilities of transport and communication. He said the new strategy is aimed at restoring confidence among peace-loving people of the state.

Preventive Orders in Delhi To Continue Until 5 Mar

BK/2418 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Feb 98

[Text] In Delhi, preventive orders in the walled city have been extended till the 5th of next month. Night curfew in the area has been continued as a precautionary measure.

Police Official Updates Curfew Situation in North

BK/2161 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Feb 98

[Text] The situation in curfew-bound areas of Jammu, Srinagar, and Anantnag continues to be fully under control. Briefing newsmen in Jammu today, the director general of police said that no untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the last 24 hours. He said 25 more persons have been arrested in Jammu and Udhampur taking the total to 190. The situation in all other towns of the state remained normal. However, curfew was imposed on Super town of Kashmir valley today following attempts by some miscreants to disturb peace.

The manner of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, is in constant touch with the Jammu and Kashmir governor and the chief minister and has asked them to take firm measures to deal with the situation. The additional paramilitary forces sent by the Centre have also been instructed to deal effectively with the miscreants so that such trouble does not occur in the future.

1 Killed, 3 Injured by Police in Uttar Pradesh

BK/2419 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Feb 98

[Text] An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Domariaganj town of Basti District of Uttar Pradesh following violent incidents yesterday. An official spokesman said in Lucknow today that one person was killed and three others injured when police opened fire.

NEPAL

Queen Elizabeth ends Visit 23 Feb, Departs
BK231521 Kathmandu External Service in English 1645 GMT 23 Feb 98

[Excerpt] Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip were given a warm ceremonious send off [words indistinct] at the end of the 3-day state visit to the Kingdom of Nepal at the friendly invitation of their majesties the king and queen. Their majesties the king and queen bid an the British royal guests a hearty send off at the Tribhuvan International Airport. Their royal highnesses Prince Dhirendra Bir Bikram Shah and Princess Prekhya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah were also present at the Airport.

SRI LANKA

Parliament Votes To Extend State of Emergency
BK231117 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 23 Feb 98

[Text] The extension of the state of emergency by a further month was passed by a two-third majority in parliament yesterday. 128 members voted for the proposal while the MP for Kalawana, Suresh Muttettuwegama, and the MP for Maharagama, Dinesh Gunawardena, voted against it. The members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party abstained.

Winding up the debate, Prime Minister Premadasa appealed to the opposition not to worsen the situation in the hill country. Mr Premadasa denied reports that the government granted citizenship rights to the 94,000 Tamils with the expectation of the votes. He said that the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] group was trying to provoke estate workers and, therefore, the people should try to avoid it.

The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told the house that the security forces had destroyed a terrorist center where the British journalist, Mrs Willis, had been detained. He said that eight EROS members and six others died in the fight. Referring to a proposed news conference by a group led by a former British minister, Judith Hart, in Geneva on Monday, the minister expressed his regret as regards the allegation of violations of human rights without getting a clear picture of the situation in Sri Lanka.

Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike said that law and order in the Northern and Eastern Provinces had been collected and the government should, therefore, try to get the cooperation of the people.

Minister G Yapa Dissanayake expressed confidence that the Ceylon Workers Congress was not involved in a new movement which has been created following the disturbances in the hill country.

Minister N. Thondaman appealed to the people not to look at the problem of granting citizenship from a narrow point of view.

The member for Kalawana, Suresh Muttettuwegama, criticized the government for marching toward the capitalist dictatorship using the problem as a weapon.

40 'Terrorists' Killed in Ampara 20 Feb
BK231121 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 Feb 98

[Text] Security forces are reported to have killed 40 terrorists in the jungle in Nedunamkai in Ampara following an hour long battle between terrorists and security forces on Thursday [20 February] night, according to the security sources. Forty bodies were found in the jungle, sources said. The security forces are reported to be searching for more bodies according to reports reaching Colombo. Police said that the terrorist gang was behind the attack on the Muslim farming community in the area months a few months ago where a number of farmers were killed and the village looted and robbed. Police confirmed this finding when they recovered a tractor and other farming instruments, said the security sources.

Meanwhile, the security forces on Thursday repulsed an attack by the terrorists on the Kaudichenai police station in the Trincomalee District. Security sources said that the attack was foiled [word illegible] Combing out operations by the security forces were underway to arrest the gang of terrorists involved in the attack. No casualties have been reported by either side.

Investigations To Be Held
BK230922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 98

[Text] Military sources in Sri Lanka say that an investigation will be made into the incident of the killing of many Tamils by troops in the eastern district of Ampara on Wednesday.

Community leaders earlier said that Sri Lankan troops killed at least 40 Tamil farm workers on a rice field and set fire to some of the bodies. According to the BBC foreign diplomats in Colombo have expressed concern about the incident.

Khamenei Interviewed on Latest Operations, etc, UN
GF250903 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
0430 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Interview with President Sayyed Ali Khamenei, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, by an unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 24 February; place not given — recorded]

[Khamenei] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fortunately, the latest situation concerning the Iraqis in Fao and our combatants are satisfied. Hence we are satisfied. First of all the positions have been completely consolidated. Whatever movement was made by the Iraqis in the hope that they can launch a successful counterattack has been transformed into a blow to the Iraqi morale because heavy blows are being dealt upon them in their counterattacks, as you have heard in the news.

Of course, on the claims you hear from the Iraqis, it is natural for them to continually allege that they were able to do something or the Iranis or to make some progress. As you have observed from the film on Al-Faw and the entry of our combatants into the city of Al-Faw and the Al-Faw area shown repeatedly on our television, Iraqi POW's have formed a huge convoy and continued to surrender to the side. The Iraqis did not even admit that they had lost Al-Faw. This is the nature of their propaganda. This obviates the fact that Iraq's false propaganda should be stepped up and stronger and greater than before.

The reason for this is that the sentiment to eliminate Saddam from the region is gradually increasing in the minds of the perceptive political observers of the region and those who express their views. Hence if they have to remove such thoughts or weaken them, they will be forced to strengthen their stance. It was heard that some Iraqi commanders had even requested permission to cross over to this side of the river. If they were capable of doing so, why did they not do so over the course of the past few years? What are they waiting for anyway? They do not require permission. If they are able to repel their enemy, why do they hesitate? Why do they not do what they can? These allegations, such hollow claims, have fortunately been identified and exposed to the world.

Concerning the Security Council, I should say, regrettably, that the Security Council did not display the necessary courage on this occasion either. All of the factors and causes necessitated that the Security Council should have adopted a better and stronger stand than before, to safeguard the prestige of the UN. Although they did indirectly castigate Iraq, they did not mention Iraq's name. Thus the resolution adopted cannot be accepted or endorsed by us at all. We were hoping that the Security Council — in view of the recent downing of the airliner, a salient fact not in opposing Iraq — would take a more overt stand, so that they would not have greater credibility. However, this two-sided and ambiguous stance, which manifests a lack of courage, brings into doubt the credence of the UN, as well as the Security Council. We are sorry about this.

[Correspondent] Please tell us, what in Iran's opinion was/is the reason of problems and the pain of world oppressors in this regard?

[Khamenei] Concerning the cause of all our foes' attitudes and actions in a hasty manner, in our opinion, what has happened is related to a conspiracy against OPEC, in other words, a plot against nations united in OPEC and, incidentally, a plot against members from countries in the land of the oil sources, a majority of which are Muslim countries. This plot is ugly and inhuman because it is aimed against nations which are not well-endowed, like the African countries, some Middle Eastern and Latin American countries — indeed OPEC members are usually poor and need the income — but most of the these are Muslim countries.

It is really unfortunate for us that most OPEC members did not deem it necessary to adopt a more decisive and strong approach in this regard, toward this plot. Evidences at present that they had a hand in the hatching of this plot. We cannot easily ignore this state of affairs. Some countries, however, confronted this plot in a proper manner, such as Algeria and Libya, who participated with us in the organizing session and proclaimed their decisive stand vociferously. However, other countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, in our regard, did not cooperate or collaborate in any manner. The Saudis even announced this concerning the sale of their oil. They are authorized to make their own decisions and are not bound by OPEC commitments, even though if they had abided by OPEC commitments it would not have harmed Saudi Arabia, but would have been advantageous to them.

What we are now observing is a guarantee to the members of the OPEC countries. What Saudi Arabia says and wishes to do, that is, to make decisions on its own — concerning the scale of production and the price — what its own determinations. If they adhere to the OPEC regulations and do not engage in their OPEC commitments, they will not incur losses, but gain. Of course, this treatment of OPEC is intolerable. This is a blow to OPEC, a blow to Islamic countries. We should say that a blow would be reciprocated with a blow. We cannot remain indifferent to this state of affairs, especially as it does not concern us alone. Most of the OPEC member-countries will bear the brunt of this more than us. We are the most invulnerable, in fact we can say the strongest country as regards this situation. Our nation is resilient. We are used to enduring blows. However, this will harm other countries more and it is natural that we will respond with a blow for a blow, especially, because it is a war, a real war. The war of oil is not less than a war on the fronts. How can we accept this?

As you know most of the countries of the region are opposed — openly, covertly, in word or deed — to the Islamic decisions of OPEC and the Islamic decisions of the progressive OPEC members — such as us, Libya, and Algeria — in the matter of oil and the most susceptible. As all know, we have a vast maritime boundary on the Persian Gulf and we are authorized to take firm steps on this regard, based on international opinion or maritime usage, unless because most countries have announced and admitted that they would sell oil to Iraq. Iraq is a country to not with us and on all countries of the world except that we have jurisdiction to check commercial vessels on the basis of tonnage and their passage, whether carrying cargo for Iraq or not. They will also accept that one day we may decide that oil being sold to Iraq is to be confiscated or nationalized. Hence, as you see, these countries which talk of the unfavorable OPEC conditions are

The report adds that communication material is being imported directly from the United States.

SAIRI Protests French Expulsion of Iraqi 'Refugees'

LD241904 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 24, IRNA — Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) called in a message to France's President Francois Mitterrand yesterday deportation of two Iraqis from France to Baghdad. SAIRI called on Mitterrand to take action to ensure that the deported Iraqi dissidents are not executed by the Baghdad regime.

The cable was submitted to France's charge d'affaires in Tehran.

It said that the French Government has violated international conventions on asylum for refugees as well as those of human rights, by committing such an hostile act.

The SAIRI urged France to treat the Iraqi people settled there according to international regulations. Otherwise, the cabled added, SAIRI considers French Government to be pursuing a policy hostile to the legitimate rights of Iraqi Muslim nation.

Reportage on Combat Operations on War With Iraq

Iraq Bombs Village in Shadegan

LD240724 Tehran IRNA in English 0719 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Ahwaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb 24, IRNA — Iraqi planes bombed a village in Shadegan, south of Ahwaz, Sunday afternoon, martyring four people and injuring eight others.

The Iraqi regime in a desperate attempt to conceal humiliating defeats its forces have suffered in the ongoing Valfajr-4 operation, has resorted to such acts of cowardice and has taken civilian areas as its target.

In the said five homes were completely destroyed and several others were damaged.

Majlis Speaker Denies Iraq Advance

LD241905 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 24, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani denied here Sunday Iraqi claims that its forces are approaching towards the port city of Al-Faw liberated by Iranian forces during the ongoing Valfajr-4 offensive launched Feb 9.

Speaking to a group of visiting Iranian military attaches abroad, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that whenever the Iraqi regime was accused on the battlefields it resorted to such fabrications.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council stressed that the Islamic combatants of Iran were firmly in control of the area, that [illegible]

[illegible]

He said that the resistance of the Iranian commando and their upward rise is a glorious manifestation [illegible]

The Majlis speaker maintained that Iran had no territorial designs on Iraq, adding that half of the Shatt-al-Arab belonged to Iran and the other half to Iraq.

"We accept the treaty and we do not seek anything more," Rafsanjani said. But, he added, it was the Iraqis who did not accept the Algiers agreement and breached it continuously.

Therefore, Moslem-Resistance combatants [illegible] are regaining its legitimate rights including payment of war reparations and trial of the aggressor and has taken over Al-Faw as a means to exert pressure for this connection.

He called on the Iranian military attaches to [illegible] representatives of other countries on the achievements of Iranian forces during the current offensive.

Expert Combat Forces 'Mobilized'

LD241739 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The officials in charge of the Mobilization of the Oppressed Unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps has called correspondents that all expert combat forces bearing the special code numbers covered by the Majlis Advice Plan, including combat units bearing code numbers 121, 124, 127, 129, 130, 132, 139, 206, 207, 208, 305, 340, 342, 346, 343, 347, 351, 370, 324, 340, 344, 347, 367, 362, 366, 356, 357, 376, 377, 378, 379, and 371 have been instructed to report to Mobilization of the Oppressed Forces headquarters throughout the country as soon as possible in order to join the combatants of Islam on the war fronts.

Referring to the objectives of the Majlis Advice Plan, he said: According to this plan, experts and specialized troops who have gained combat experience under different commands from their classes to command companies, battalions, and units on the war fronts according to their code numbers and following a [illegible]

Communique No 2301

LD241706 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 24, IRNA — Another Iraqi helicopter gunship (type) was shot down by Iranian warplane in an air battle over the Khark Island on 22 40 hours local time (19 25 hours GMT) Sunday, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran here Monday.

In its Communique Number 2301, the command says that Iranian warplane and artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts Sunday killed and wounded at least 150 Iraqi soldiers and

[illegible] five gun emplacements, one truck and one [illegible] tent west of them.

In the northwestern front, the communique says, Iran's Muslim combatants exposed an Iraqi artillery fire Sunday killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers, destroying two tanks and setting fire to parts of their positions.

The Joint Staff communique says that Iranian forces repelled Iraqi helicopters and opened fire on enemy vehicle columns in Sarmar Sunday, halting their movement.

Iranian Muslim combatants checked movements of Iraqi mercenary units in areas overlooking Mayman and their engineering operations elsewhere in areas overlooking Mehran Sunday, according to the communique.

In Vilan, and Cyrahawk, both in the southern fronts, the communique says, Iranian troops shelled several Iraqi vehicle columns which were carrying supply and enemy soldiers' Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them.

Exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued in the Mayman Islands, and in Zibeydih and Shahrbani more heavily than in other parts of the front Sunday, reports the Joint Staff Command.

Meanwhile, the City of Abadan in Khuzestan Province sustained damage [illegible] as it was bombarded by Iraqi planes and shelled by Iraqi long-range artillery fire.

[illegible] Iraqi Planes Downed

[2]0[illegible]7[illegible] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1[illegible]GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] On the basis of the latest report received from the Khatam al-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the victorious warriors of Islam, in continuation of the "Val-Fajr-4" operations, by relying upon the understanding divine mercy, have further consolidated their captured positions north of the Iraqi town of Al-Faw and continue to destroy the enemy's defeated forces. The selfless warriors of the army of Islam during clashes last night, this morning, and this evening, succeeded through their unique vigilance and brave deeds, in repulsing all desperate enemy moves in this region and killing, wounding, or capturing a large number of them.

Today, four more enemy planes were downed, bringing to [illegible] the total number of the enemy planes downed since the start of the proud "Val-Fajr-4" operations.

According to the report, during the clashes, the distinguishing Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist forces suffered heavy losses and casualties and a large number of their tanks, armored carriers, and equipment were destroyed in this region. At present, the enemy's destroyed equipment has littered large areas of the "Val-Fajr-4" operational theater.

Last night, this morning, and this evening, the Islamic combatants launched a counterattack by regrouping the contingents of the forces in the "Val-Fajr-4" operational sector, which included two infantry battalions of the 7th Mechanized Division. But the mighty combatants of Islam succeeded in crushing their heroic [illegible]. Also during last night's and today's operations, two enemy infantry battalions were completely wiped out and the victorious warriors of the army of monotheism, while advancing deep inside the positions of the Ba'thist Satanic forces, brought other areas north of the Iraqi Al-Faw under their control.

Iraqi Pilot Rides Out

[2]0[illegible] Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Al-Faw, Feb 24, IRNA — The pilot of an Iraqi fighter bomber ejected and baled out of his aircraft over the Iraqi occupied town Monday for fear of being hit by Iranian antiaircraft fire. His aircraft crashed a few meters away bringing to [illegible] the number of Iraqi fighters downed near here Monday. The pilot of the Iraqi fighter said he decided to do so, since he had seen another Iraqi fighter hit by Iranian antiaircraft fire and crashing nearby. He said he had reacted only to save his own life.

Reporters Visit Shelled Villages

[2]0[illegible]7 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Abbas, Khuzestan Prov., Feb 27, IRNA — A group of foreign journalists visited ruins of the Iraqi bombardment of two villages near Shadegan, south of Abbas, Monday.

The Iraqi bombardment of the villages is a flagrant violation of the United Nations June 12, 1984 agreement. Iraq bombed the two villages Sunday afternoon murdering seven villagers and injuring nine others.

During the inspection tour of the area conducted by the War Information Headquarters, the foreign reporters talked to the inhabitants of the villages and visited the destruction caused by the Iraqi air raid.

A local official told reporters that the villages were some of the areas most far from the war fronts and are residential areas.

Two Missiles Launched

[2]0[illegible]4 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1600 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners please pay attention to the latest reports we have just received. According to the latest report received from Khatam al-Anbiya' headquarters, the courageous combatants of Islam began the "Val-Fajr-4" operations at [illegible]1930 GMT] with the sacred command Ya Allah, Ya Allah, Ya Allah in order to liberate the important and impassable heights situated in the Al-Hoveyzeh region of Iraq. They succeeded in advancing towards their predetermined targets and in inflicting

heavy damage and casualties on the enemy on that region. The powerful forces of Islam moved through extensive obstacles raised by the enemy in the region and attacked the enemy positions. They succeeded in capturing some important strategic heights in the Al-Salavmaniyah region of Iraq. In the course of these operations, the proud combatants of the army of monotheism assaulted the fortified positions of the enemy and annihilated the military forces stationed there. Sure assistance from God and victory is nigh. [Koranic verse]

Attack Hears of Iraqi Position

LD2251105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1000 GMT 25 FEB 88

[Report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent on Saturday] on the northwestern front]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate the merciful. O Moslem nation of Iran, simultaneous with the victorious "Val-Fajr-4" operation, while the combatants of Islam are fortifying their positions, the brave forces of Islam on the northwestern operational theater once again carried out an epic operation and declared to the world their firm resolve to destroy Saddam and reject the aggression of the Zionist regime ruling over Baghdad. At 0125 this morning, they attacked the heart of the Saddamites' position. In the early hours of the operation, the combatants of Islam attacked two enemy bases, killing and capturing a large number of enemy troops. They also cleansed the heights overlooking Tarmal from the filthy presence of the Saddamites.

At present, the victorious forces of Islam are strengthening their positions and evacuating the POWs. Further reports on the operation will be brought to the attention of the brave nation. The prayers of the imam of the nation and the Moslem nation of Islam will be with the combatants.

Commentary Examines Security Council Stand on War

GF241552 Tehran International Service in Farsi
1715 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, an AFP correspondent has reported from New York that during an unofficial 23 February debate on the question of condemning aggression, 10 of the nonpermanent UN Security Council members drew up a new plan on the question of the imposed war. This is the first time the UN Security Council is taking up the question of responsibility for the war since it began tackling the matter.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been complaining about the UN Security Council over this matter. Furthermore, it has criticized the council for neglecting its responsibilities. The plan will be put to a vote on Monday, 29 February.

This is the first time the UN Security Council members have talked about the war the Iraqi regime imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, Iran has made it known that it will not participate in UN Security Council meetings on the question of the imposed war. The Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, Javaher Kalam said: "As long as the UN Security Council persists in committing injustice, there is no point in attending it." A brief glance at the history of the UN Security Council makes us the supposed war gives the impression that, regardless of its claims that it maintains comprehensive opportunities, the UN Security Council does nothing of the kind. Perhaps through its opportunistic tendencies it sometimes condemns Iraq behind Saddam and the Zionist Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

As a result of a wide-ranging and savage attack, the Iraqi forces occupied a number of southern and western border regions of Iran in 1980. They resorted to massacres of the worst kind during the occupation of these regions. Meanwhile, the subjugation of cities to rocket attacks, the bombardment of civilian areas, the use of chemical bombs and toxic gases, and the attacks on civilian vessels are clear examples of the Iraqi regime's criminal work. All this has been carried out by the executioners of the Saddam regime during the past 7 years of the war. Regarding all these crimes, the UN Security Council either refrained from condemning or vetoed its ruling as a result of diplomatic pressures by the Islamic Republic of Iran and a number of other progressive countries. Even during the meetings it held, the UN Security Council approached the matters referred to without serious attention. And sometimes, it concluded its sessions by merely criticizing crimes without pointing to the names of the criminals. For example, as a result of diplomatic pressures by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the diplomatic moves made by the Iranian delegation to the United Nations, the UN Security Council met to discuss the question of Iraq's use of chemical arms in 1985. The members of the UN Security Council superficially condemned the use of such arms — which have been banned at the international level — without mentioning the criminal Saddam regime.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council has adopted aggressive positions as well but failed to support the power for executing laws. The U.S. hegemonic in the UN Security Council and the veto right of five of the council's members have not allowed the council to move on the direction of the oppressed countries and the recognition of their rights.

As such, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken a logical decision and has made it known that it will not participate in the UN Security Council until that organization proves its impartiality.

Turkish Turkish Commentary Plays Statesmen Viewed

TA2411044 Ankara Milli Nationalist Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary: "Khomeyni's Regime — Saviour of the Allies of the Deceased Shah and America"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: One of the outstanding gains of our glorious revolution was the expulsion of U.S. military advisers and the termination of the satanic life of the imperialist CENTO Pact which was headed by world-devouring America.

Our nation's glorious revolution threw the black book of the U.S. government past onto the garbage heap of history. However,

neither world-dominating America nor its subservient regimes in Turkey and Pakistan ever lost hope of opening each to each, whether secretly or in another form, and have always strived to rebuild it.

It is common knowledge that one of the ways used by world-dominating America to escalate its military presence in the region is to foster tension and military clashes and conflicts among the countries of our region. Khomeyni's regime is moving precisely in this direction. America is endeavoring with utmost power to suppress all democratic, national progressive, and anti-imperialist forces in every country of the world, particularly those in our sensitive region, with the aid of reactionary forces and regimes. Khomeyni's regime has for a long time fulfilled the U.S. task, even though it does not refrain every now and then from repeating the slogan "Death to America."

This reality poses common tasks before all revolutionary, progressive, and patriotic forces, not only in our homeland but also in the region's countries, particularly Turkey and Pakistan. When the leaders of the three reactionary and antipopular regimes of Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey act in a unified manner to suppress revolutionary progressive forces and the freedom of the people, and to promote the aims of imperialism, headed by America, the solidarity and cooperation of revolutionary progressive forces of the peoples of our homeland, Turkey, and Pakistan at the present sensitive historical moments is an urgent and vital matter.

In this connection, the joint statement by the Iranian Tudeh Party and the Turkish Communist Party, published in [illegible] 13 November, central organ of the Iranian Tudeh Party, on 30 January 1986, is noteworthy. Both parties, in an atmosphere of complete understanding and friendship, denounced the Khomeyni regime's reactionary and oppressive policy. The Turkish Communist Party delegation expressed its full support for the heroic struggle of Iranian communists and other patriotic forces to overthrow Iran's theocratic regime and establish a national democratic government that adheres to the principles of national independence, democracy, and social justice.

Both delegations, referring to the fatal consequences of the devastating Iran-Iraq war which are seen in the context of imperialism, demanded the settlement of disagreements between Iran and Iraq through direct talks between the two governments, as well as the declaration of a cease-fire.

Both delegations believe that Turkey's present regime is a fascist regime that implements a policy of repression, tyranny, and anticommunism and violates the Turkish people's most fundamental rights, and stress the role of U.S. imperialism's [illegible] column in Iran.

Both delegations condemn the policy of the Turkish and Iranian regimes against the Kurdish people and express their full support for the Kurdish people's struggle.

Both parties unequivocally assess struggle for peace as the most important duty of the world's progressive revolutionary forces.

Without doubt, solidarity of revolutionary patriotic forces in Turkey, Pakistan, and our own homeland can be effective both in foiling the plots of imperialism, headed by America, and in expanding the process of revolutionary combat by our peoples.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack U.S. Embassy in Kabul

GF241746 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Moslem Afghan revolutionaries during past weeks launched 24 rocket attacks on a number of vital points and centers of importance to the Afghan ruling regime in the capital Kabul. The attacks were also aimed at the U.S. Embassy compound, the Soviet forces command headquarters, residences of the senior officers and PDPA leaders, and Kabul airport.

The Karmal regime admitted to several rocket attacks on a number of strategic centers in Kabul. Informed sources say that this admission proves the capability of the Moslem Afghan revolutionaries to move freely in Kabul.